

to respond to those so committed to the destruction of life. We must also stand with the Egyptian people in solidarity.

This resolution does just that, making it clear that Congress and the American people are behind them during this difficult period.

Mr. Speaker, let the House of Representatives speak in unison and with clarity on this issue: Terrorism has no place in this world and it will not be tolerated.

I want to thank my colleagues, DARELL ISSA, Mr. WEXLER and Ms. ROSELEHTINEN for their work on this resolution. It is only through their efforts that we were able to bring it to the floor so quickly. I also want to thank my colleague, Mr. MCCOTTER, for managing this so well. In addition, I thank the leadership on both sides for allowing this bill on the floor today, and I urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 795. The cruel and deadly terrorist attacks last month in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula took place on the weekend of the Coptic Orthodox Easter and an Egyptian national holiday commemorating the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai. Its casualties included Egyptian Muslims and Egyptian Christians, as well as foreigners. In all, 18 people were murdered—12 of them Egyptian—and 85 wounded.

These attacks have proven once again that the extreme ideology of violent Islamic fundamentalism poses a danger not only to the Western World but to all peace-loving people on the globe. The terrorists do not distinguish between Christians, Jews, or Muslims—or between Arabs and non-Arabs—in their search to destroy the core values of civilization.

Mr. Speaker, at this difficult time we extend our deepest sympathies to the Egyptian people—and to the loved ones of all those of many nations who perished in the April 24 bombings. We also offer sincere expressions of concern to all those wounded in the bombings on April 24 and 26—in the latter of which only the would-be murderers themselves lost their lives.

The rise of terrorism in the once placid Sinai is a source of great concern to Egypt, its neighbors, and to all its friends. This was the third major bombing at Sinai resorts in the past 18 months, following attacks on Taba and its environs on October 7, 2004, which left 34 dead, and on Sharm el-Sheikh on July 23, 2005, which murdered 64. The April 26 attack to which I alluded a moment ago was directed at both Egyptian police and a contingent of the U.S.-led Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai, people who have no purpose other than preserving the peace between Israel and Egypt.

We want the Egyptian people to know they have our full support as they seek to hunt down those who planned and implemented all these heinous attacks and as they seek to eradicate the scourge of fundamentalist violence that has afflicted Egypt in ebbs and flows over the years—the same scourge that took the life of Anwar Sadat, one of the towering figures of the twentieth century, as well as the life of Farag Hoda, a brilliant author and highly principled secularist.

I believe the ultimate answer to this problem lies in education, economic development, and

political reform. But now is not the time to debate such issues.

For now, Mr. Speaker, let us stand as one with the Egyptian people and government in opposing and rejecting the violent ideology of hate, of which Egypt has been but the latest victim.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in doing likewise.

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 795, condemning the terrorist bombings in Egypt on April 24 and 26, 2006. The deplorable and cowardly acts of violence perpetrated against civilians on those two days of terror are worthy of our condemnation, and illustrate the depths to which terrorists will sink to spread their hatred and violence. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution on its own merits, but also out of respect for four good people from my hometown of Casper, Wyoming, all of whom were severely injured in the April 24 blast in Dahab.

On the evening of April 24, 2006, Betsy Lamberson, Tom South, Bruce Lamberson and Cindy Parrish were attempting to enjoy a nice dinner together at this resort town on the Gulf of Aqaba. Their plans were suddenly and brutally cut short when a terrorist group affiliated with Al-Qaeda detonated three separate blasts, killing 24 people and injuring more than 80. These four Wyoming folks were among those seriously injured. We can thank God that all of them lived through the ordeal. However, with broken limbs and serious shrapnel injuries, each of them has a long road to recovery.

Mr. Speaker, there can be no greater reminder to us of what is at stake in our war against terrorism than four innocent people from my hometown nearly cut down by the senseless hatred of radical Islamists. Will cannot and will not live in the shadow of this violence, unable to visit family in far away places out of fear for our very lives. Our resolve is only hardened by these attacks on our countrymen, and our commitment to defeating terrorism across the globe is renewed today.

On behalf of Wyoming and her citizens, I pray that Betsy, Tom, Bruce, and Cindy will fully recover from their injuries and be able to enjoy all that life has yet to offer them. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, which sends a clear message to terrorists wherever they may be hiding: we will not stand idly by while you so callously attempt to harm innocent people, and destroy the freedoms they deserve.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the remaining time.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 795.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CONDEMNING MURDER OF AMERICAN JOURNALIST PAUL KLEBNIKOV ON JULY 9, 2004, IN MOSCOW AND MURDERS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 499) condemning the murder of American journalist Paul Klebnikov on July 9, 2004, in Moscow and the murders of other members of the media in the Russian Federation, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 499

Whereas on July 9, 2004, American journalist Paul Klebnikov was murdered by gunmen as he exited the Moscow offices of Forbes Magazine;

Whereas no person has been convicted of any offense in connection with the murder of Mr. Klebnikov;

Whereas Mr. Klebnikov is survived by his wife Helen, and his three young children;

Whereas twelve journalists have been murdered in the Russian Federation since 2000 and Mr. Klebnikov was the first and only United States citizen among these journalists;

Whereas the Department of State's 2005 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices states government pressure in Russia continues to weaken freedom of expression and the independence and freedom of the media, particularly among the major national television networks and regional media outlets;

Whereas the Russian Prosecutor General's office arrested and tried Musa Vahaev and Kazbek Dukzov for the murder of Mr. Klebnikov;

Whereas Musa Vahaev and Kazbek Dukzov were acquitted on May 5, 2006, of the charges of murdering Mr. Klebnikov;

Whereas the Government of Russia has stated that Mr. Klebnikov's murder was ordered by Khodz-Akhmed Nukhayevev, a fugitive Chechen criminal gang leader, but has not publicly released any evidence of Mr. Nukhayevev's complicity;

Whereas it remains unclear who ordered the murder of Mr. Klebnikov or if any party will be convicted of this crime; and

Whereas a group of United States investigative journalists has launched an independent inquiry into the death of Mr. Klebnikov: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the murder of American journalist Paul Klebnikov on July 9, 2004, in Moscow and the murders of other members of the media in the Russian Federation;

(2) commends the Russian Prosecutor General's office for its continuing investigation of the murder of Mr. Klebnikov;

(3) urges the Government of Russia to continue its inquiries to determine and bring to justice all parties involved in the murder of Mr. Klebnikov;

(4) urges the Government of Russia to accept offers of assistance with the investigation of Mr. Klebnikov's murder from the United States and other concerned governments;

(5) urges the Government of Russia to take appropriate action to protect the independence and freedom of the Russian media and all visiting members of the media; and

(6) commends all journalists working and living in Russia for their courageous dedication to transparency and the truth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 499, a resolution that condemns the murder of American journalist Paul Klebnikov in Moscow and the murder of other members of the media in the Russian Federation. H. Res. 499 was a product which I introduced, and I commend and thank the chairman of the Europe and Emerging Threats Subcommittee, Mr. GALLEGLY, and, of course, the chairman of the committee, Chairman HYDE, for all of their help with this legislation, as well as all of my colleagues on the International Relations Committee, and not surprisingly, I strongly urge its passage.

On July 9, 2004, Paul Klebnikov, the editor-in-chief of the Russian edition of Forbes Magazine, was shot 10 times outside his office building in Moscow. He left behind a wife and three young children. As part of his work, Mr. Klebnikov had developed into one of the foremost experts on the intersection between organized crime, politics, law enforcement and big business in Russia. Unfortunately, the murder of Paul Klebnikov is not an isolated attack on members of the press. In the past 6 years alone, 12 journalists have been murdered in the Russian Federation.

H. Res. 499 condemns this brutal murder, as well as the murder of other members of the Russian media. While applauding the work of the Russian prosecutor general's office for its ongoing investigation, the legislation urges the Government of Russia to continue its inquiry and bring to justice all parties involved in this horrific crime. It also calls upon Russia to accept offers of assistance from the United States and other rightly concerned governments.

Finally, H. Res. 499 commends Russian-based journalists for their courageous dedication to transparency and the truth and urges the Russian Government to take appropriate action to protect the independence and freedom of members of the press working and living in Russia.

H. Res. 499 was approved both by the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerg-

ing Threats and the full International Relations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is often wondered why in the United States our Constitution refers to freedom of speech rather than freedom of conscience. It is because the founders of this country and the framers of our Constitution understood that there can be no freedom of conscience where there is not freedom of speech to express it. What the Founding Fathers knew has been perverted by many who would enslave and subjugate their fellow human beings, which is why we in the United States who enjoy a freedom of speech and its concomitant freedom of conscience must be ever alert to ensure that the watchdogs of liberty, a free and unfettered press, are forever protected from intimidation or extermination at the hands of dictators.

Again, I would like to thank my colleagues on the International Relations Committee, and I would like to urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 499, and I want to thank Congressman McCOTTER for introducing this important resolution that is being considered on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, American journalist Paul Klebnikov devoted his career to exposing corruption within Russia. He was committed to seeing Russia become a free and wholly democratic society. I think I can speak for everyone in this room today that we all share his dream.

Unfortunately, Mr. Klebnikov will not be witness to this, as he was ruthlessly gunned down outside the Moscow offices of Forbes Magazine. He, like 11 other journalists since the Putin administration took office, was murdered in cold blood, chilling freedom of speech and the media in Russia.

Last year, President Putin announced publicly that fighting corruption and protecting the Russian people from crime is a priority for his administration. For this promise not to be seen as yet another hollow gesture, President Putin must do everything in his power to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of Mr. Klebnikov's murder. A free media will never exist in Russia unless the murderers are brought to justice.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge our colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just wish to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER), the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), and of course, the ranking member of the International Relations Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who has been a staunch opponent of totalitarianism and a champion of freedom in this institution for decades.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 499, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today the phones in our district offices and our D.C. offices are ringing off the hook, and most of those calls are coming in about the situation that our country faces with illegal immigration.

Mr. Speaker, it is not that complicated an issue. The Members of this body and here in the House agree, secure the border first. That is the first thing that needs to be done.

The Republican leadership in the House worked hard to pass the bill that we passed last December, which addresses border security and employer enforcement.

So to my constituents and to the other Members of this body I say, let us say no to amnesty or any type of amnesty. Let us continue to support construction of a border, whether it is a wall or surveillance. Let us secure our border. I do support the use of military presence on the border as an emergency measure.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for action. The time has passed. It is time for us to be certain that this Nation is secure. It is an issue of national security.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

(Mr. McCOTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, ordinarily I would have recognized the work and dedication of a special constituent from Michigan's 11th District on Sunday. However, she was away from home.

I would like to thank Georgia Joan McCotter, a mother, for a lifetime of trying to make sure that her two sons, Thaddeus and Dennis, were raised to be good and decent people. Although she fully succeeded in my brother's case, I would like to assure her that I am still trying, but that the love in my heart for her will never diminish over time.

So, to her belatedly, if you are home, if you are listening, Happy Mother's Day.